

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application and Claims

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Office's withdrawal of the restriction requirement and agreeing to examine all pending claims, and all species therein. Office Action, page 2.

Claims 1-3, 8, 12-20, 22-25, 27-36, 38-42, 46, and 50-51 are pending upon entry of this Amendment. Claims 1-6, 10-20, 22-24, 27-44, and 48-51 are rejected. *Id.*, page 1. Claims 7-9, 25, and 45-47 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. *Id.*, page 2.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 35. Claim 1 now recites the language of claims 7 and 9, while claim 35 recites the language of claims 46 and 47. Claims 8 and 46 have been amended to indicate the new claim dependency. Applicants have canceled claims 4-7, 9-11, 21, 26, 37, 43-45, and 47-49 and reserve the right to pursue any canceled subject matter in a continuation application. Support for the claim amendments is found in the application as filed, for example, in original claims 1, 7, 9, and 35. No new matter has been added.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 4-6, 11-17, 23, 27, 29, 31, 35-37, 42-44, and 49-51 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,789,244 to Heidrun et al. Office Action, pages 2-3. Claims 1-6, 10, 12-20, 22-24, 27, 29, 31, 32, 35-44, 48, 50, and 51 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,086,913 to Tam et al. *Id.*, page 3. Claims 1-6, 10, 12-20, 22-24, 27, 29,

31-44, 48, 50, and 51 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,534,484 to Wheeler et al. *Id.*, page 4. As mentioned, claims 7-9, 25, 28, 30, and 45-47 were not included in the rejections. Applicants traverse the rejections.

In order to advance prosecution, however, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite the limitations of allowable claims 7 and 9, and amended independent claim 35 to recite the limitations of allowable claims 45 and 47. Accordingly, amended claims 1 and 35, and all remaining claims that depend thereon, are not anticipated by the cited references.

For this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the Office reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

SUMMARY

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

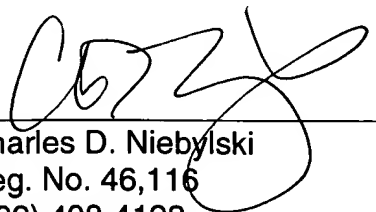
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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